

Overflow Reporting

The following is a summary of the reporting requirements regarding overflows from combined sewers during dry weather and from sanitary sewer systems.

Any release of raw sewage from a sanitary collection system prior to a treatment plant constitutes a sanitary sewer overflow (SSO). Every system in the state is vulnerable to, and has the potential to, have an SSO. Most SSOs occur as a result of pipe blockages or breaks, excessive infiltration and inflow, or power failures. SSOs threaten public health, public and private property, and surface and ground waters. All SSOs are prohibited and must be promptly reported to the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM), Office of Water Quality.

Should a combined sewer overflow not caused solely by rainfall or an SSO release occur, the facility is required to notify IDEM's Office of Water Quality within 24 hours (that time limit is reduced to two hours if the discharge point is not listed in an NPDES permit and pollutants reach waters of the state) and in writing within five days of the event. The information provided must include the location, duration, estimated volume and cause of discharge as well as the remedial action taken to eliminate it. The best way to comply with the reporting requirements is to fax a report using State Form 48373 (3-02). If the discharge is resulting in a fish kill or other severe environmental damage, the release must be immediately reported to the spill response line (the phone number is found on the State Form 48373). All overflows must also be reported in the monthly reports.

In most cases, diversion from combined sewers solely caused by rainfall need not be reported except in the monthly reports of operations and the CSO discharge monitoring report forms.